

**From:** Helen Grimaux

**Sent:** Friday, 10 August 2007 12:26 AM

**To:** Birmingham, Simon (Senator); Trood, Russell (Senator); Parry, Stephen (Senator); Sterle, Glenn (Senator); Troeth, Judith (Senator); Nettle, Kerry (Senator); Evans, Chris (Senator); Ferguson, Alan (Senator); Hutchins, Steve (Senator); Johnston, David (Senator); Faulkner, John (Senator); Hogg, John (Senator); Carr, Kim (Senator); Wong, Penelope (Senator); senator.campbell@aph.gov.au; Fifield, Mitchell (Senator); Chapman, Grant (Senator); Fierravanti-Wells, Concetta (Senator); Colbeck, Richard (Senator); Cormann, Mathias (Senator); Crossin, Patricia (Senator); Wortley, Dana (Senator); Ray, Robert (Senator); Scullion, Nigel (Senator); Stephens, Ursula (Senator); Allison, Lyn (Senator); Barnett, Guy (Senator); senator.bernard@aph.gov.au; Humphries, Gary (Senator); Eggleston, Alan (Senator); Patterson, Kay (Senator); Ronaldson, Michael (Senator); Siewert, Rachel (Senator); Fisher, Mary Jo (Senator); Hurley, Annette (Senator); Conroy, Stephen (Senator); Coonan, Helen (Senator); Webber, Ruth (Senator); Watson, John (Senator); O'Brien, Kerry (Senator); Polley, Helen (Senator); Sherry, Nick (Senator); Adams, Judith (Senator); Joyce, Barnaby (Senator)

**Subject:** Northern Territory National Emergency Response Bills

Honourable Ministers

I am very concerned that Australia's politicians use the unique opportunity this new legislation offers to thoroughly debate the ramifications of such a course of judicial interference in community life and then communicate to us that you have listened to each other and the messages coming from all around this nation.

As for many Australians, and as ably championed by Minister Mal Brough, I support active involvement with indigenous communities, many of whom have been highlighting their own problems for years now.

The problems so transparent in the Northern Territory magnify the problems nearly every Australian community faces today, this day when you vote on one community.

Realise what it would be like if you put every community under such a spotlight? I do; I am a journalist who exposes and is exposed to the full gambit of human activity on a daily basis. The rule of thumb is you can only print about 10 percent of what you find out; the rest is between the lines, between the cracks, some may say.

Let us make this very public and very personal issue into a healing process for communities across the whole of Australia, old and new, for where better to start than with the people this system first conquered in ignorance of what we did to them?

Let's do it differently this time, please.

Show grace today; show your humanity and please think beyond the politick of the immediate.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Grimaux